

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3323–S3380*

**Measures Introduced:** Eleven bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 627–637, and S. Res. 76–78. **Pages S3368–69**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 110th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 111–8)

S. 146, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads. (S. Rept. No. 111–9)

S. 277, to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3368**

#### Measures Passed:

***Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act:*** Senate passed H.R. 1512, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S3379**

***National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 78, designating March 22, 2009, as “National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day”. **Page S3379**

#### Measures Considered:

**Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act:** Senate continued consideration of H.R. 146, to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3338–48, S3348–63**

#### Rejected:

Coburn Amendment No. 680 (to Amendment No. 684), to ensure that the general public has full access to our national parks and to promote the health and safety of all visitors and employees of the National Park Service. (By 79 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 101), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S3338, S3342, S3348–49**

Coburn Amendment No. 679 (to Amendment No. 684), to provide for the future energy needs of the United States and eliminate restrictions on the development of renewable energy. (By 65 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. 102), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S3338, S3349–50**

Coburn Amendment No. 675 (to Amendment No. 684), to prohibit the use of eminent domain and to ensure that no American has their property forcibly taken from them by authorities granted under this Act. (By 63 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 103), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S3339, S3342–48, S3351–52**

#### Pending:

Bingaman Amendment No. 684, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3338–48, S3348–63**

Coburn Amendment No. 682 (to Amendment No. 684), to protect scientists and visitors to federal lands from unfair penalties for collecting insignificant rocks. **Page S3340**

Coburn Amendment No. 677 (to Amendment No. 684), to require Federal agencies to determine on an annual basis the quantity of land that is owned by each Federal agency and the cost to taxpayers of the ownership of the land. **Pages S3340–42**

Coburn Amendment No. 683 (to Amendment No. 684), to prohibit funding for congressional earmarks for wasteful and parochial pork projects. **Page S3361**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 19, 2009, and that there be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided and controlled between Senators Bingaman and Coburn, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments as listed below, and that the order with respect to time prior to votes and

vote sequencing remain in effect: Coburn Amendment No. 677 (to Amendment No. 684) (listed above); Coburn Amendment No. 682 (to Amendment No. 684) (listed above); Coburn Amendment No. 683 (to Amendment No. 684) (listed above); provided that there be 30 minutes of debate with respect to the bill, equally divided and controlled between Senators Bingaman and Coburn, or their designees, and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate proceed as provided for under the order of March 17, 2009, with all other provisions remaining in effect.

**Page S3363**

**Kagan Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 19, 2009, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Elena Kagan, of Massachusetts, to be Solicitor General of the United States; that there be 6 hours of debate with respect to the nomination, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators Leahy and Specter, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

**Page S3379**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By yeas 5 yeas (Vote No. EX. 100), Ronald Kirk, of Texas, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

**Pages S3328–38, S3348, S3380**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

James W. Miller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

Susan Flood Burk, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President, with the rank of Ambassador.

Russlynn Ali, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

Carmel Martin, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

Charles P. Rose, of Illinois, to be General Counsel, Department of Education.

Ronald H. Weich, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

**Pages S3379–80**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S3368**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S3368**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Page S3368**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Page S3369–70**

## Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

**Pages S3370–78**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S3367–68**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Page S3378**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:**

**Page S3378**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Pages S3378–79**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—103)

**Pages S3348–52**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3379.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL PROGRAMS

**Committee on Appropriations:** Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense medical programs, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Eric B. Shoomaker, USA, Surgeon General of the Army and Commander, Army Medical Command, and Major General Patricia D. Horoho, USA, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, both of the United States Army, Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson, USN, Surgeon General of the Navy, and Rear Admiral Christine M. Bruzek-Kohler, USN, Director, Navy Nurse Corps, both of the United States Navy, and Lieutenant General James G. Roudebush, USAF, Surgeon General of the Air Force, and Major General Kimberly A. Siniscalchi, USAF, Assistant Surgeon General of the Air Force, Nursing Services and Medical Force Development, both of the United States Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

### MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION

**Committee on Armed Services:** Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine incidents of suicides of United States Servicemembers and initiatives within the Department of Defense to prevent military suicides, after receiving testimony from Senator Cornyn; General Peter W. Chiarelli, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Benjamin C. Freakley, USA, Commanding General, Army Accessions Command, Major General David A. Rubenstein, USA, Deputy Surgeon General of the Army, Brigadier General Loree K. Sutton, USA, Director, Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and